

Madawela Punnaji

Madewela Punnaji



Born	1929 Sri Lanka
Died	2018
Nationality	USA
Education	M.D.
Occupation	(formerly a physician), Buddhist monk
Known for	Buddhist teacher, author, monk
Home town	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Religion	Buddhism, Theravada

Bhante Madawela Punnaji (November 26, 1929 - July 27, 2018) from [Sri Lanka](#) was a scholar of the [Pali Canon](#) and also had extensive studies in science, medicine, and western psychology. He wrote the Foreword to author [Dr. David N. Snyder's *Buddha's Lists*](#) and has written and presented several other articles around the globe as well.

Contents

- [1 Biography](#)
 - [1.1 Family](#)
 - [1.2 Teacher at the Buddhist Maha Vihara](#)
- [2 Relations to Vipassana Foundation and Dhamma Wiki](#)
- [3 Death](#)
- [4 See also](#)
- [5 References](#)
- [6 External links](#)

Biography



Early Dr. Pushpanda

Born Pushpananda Madawela, Ven. Punnaji began meditating when he was five years old ^[1]. As he grew up in Sri Lanka, he began getting interested in Buddhism while other children were starting school.

Academically, he went on to medical school to become a general practitioner, where his name was Dr. Pushpanda Madawela. Ten years later, the doctor changed his name to Ven. Madawela Punnaji and then changed aspirations to become a monk. In 1968, Rev. Madihe Pannaseela at Sri Vajiragnana Dharmaya Ayathanaya, Sri Lanka, ordained the now Ven. Punnaji as a monk.

Family



Godfrey, Hilda and Gamini, Ven. Punnaji's family

Ven. Punnaji's ancestry traces to Herat Mudiyansele Madawela Basnayake Nilame (1830), whose son was Sri Lankan politician Godfrey Edward Madawela (1878 - 1932) ^[2]. Ven. Punnaji's brother is Godfrey Ernest Madawela, pictured here.

Teacher at the Buddhist Maha Vihara

After the passing of the late Ven. Dr. [K. Sri Dhammananda](#) at the Brickfields Malaysian [Buddhist Maha Vihara \[1\]](#), Venerable Punnaji traveled there to give the eulogy for K. Sri Dhammandana and was such a good a teacher of the [Dhamma](#) that he was asked to stay, which he did.

Relations to Vipassana Foundation and Dhamma Wiki

Ven. Punnaji has frequently visited Las Vegas, the [Vipassana Foundation](#) and wrote the forward to [Dr. David N. Snyder's](#) book, *[Buddha's Lists](#)*.

Death

Dr. Madawela Punnaji passed away on July 27, 2018 which was the Full Moon Day of July 2018. He gave Dhamma talks almost all of his life, virtually up to the day of his passing. He was 88 years old. He gave a Dhamma talk of over one hour on July 26, 2018 and then died peacefully in his sleep only a few hours later:

- [Bhante Punnaji's last sermon](#)

See also

- [List of Dhamma instruction by Madawela Punnaji](#)
- [Madawela Punnaji quotes](#)

References

1.

- Chai Mei Ling. "[A scientific approach to religion](#)". BuddhistChannel.tv. Retrieved on [September 28, 2008](#).

- Githal Madawela. "[Madawela Family Tree](#)". Retrieved on [September 28, 2008](#).

External links

- [Buddha's Lists \(foreward by Punnaji\)](#)
- ["A scientific approach to religion"](#) - Ven. Punnaji says there is a correlation between Western psychology and Buddhism
- [YouTube Channel](#)
- [A website with access to his teachings](#)
- [Proto Buddhism website](#)

Categories:

- [Articles with hCards](#)
- [Bhantes](#)
- [Modern Teachers](#)